



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

reign of Charles III., and at the beginning of the reign of Charles IV., and is on the whole one of the most attractive parts of the work. The writer had only a very imperfect acquaintance with the Spanish language, and saw only a small part of Spain and very little of the common life of the people; but he has described only what he saw, and his Journal has therefore a permanent historical worth. It shows also that in all the relations of private life Lord Auckland was kind, affectionate, and high-minded, whatever we may think of his conduct as a politician.

8. — *The Greatest of all the Plantagenets. An Historical Sketch.* London: Richard Bentley. 1860. 8vo. pp. xvii. and 457.

THE reign of Edward I., *Scotorum Malleus*, is one of the most memorable epochs in the mediæval history of England; and all the circumstances connected with it — his subjugation of Wales, his wars with Scotland and France, his judicial reforms, and his legislative enactments — combine to show that he was an able, warlike, and politic sovereign. This character he has generally borne among modern historians; but it does not satisfy the writer of the monograph before us. He reminds his readers that most of the historians of the last century who dealt with this period were of Scottish birth, and kindly suggests, that “no native of the Northern kingdom could be expected to write this king’s history in a just and impartial spirit.” Before his admiring view Edward looms up in gigantic proportions, as the greatest of the English kings; and we are gravely told, “As a legislator, Edward stands pre-eminent above all other sovereigns, ancient or modern.” “Legislation, not war, was his chosen path,” while he was at the same time endowed with “pre-eminent military talent.” Adopting this two-fold estimate of Edward, as a statesman and a warrior whose “objects and purposes were at all times just and honorable,” the writer of this biography is throughout his advocate and apologist, and he sums up all with the declaration, “We find in history’s page no nobler man than Edward, none of a greater soul; and, assuredly, we find no one that surpasses him in the attribute of lofty sagacity.” To such extravagance of statement can modern hero-worship run; and as if this were insufficient, we are assured that he exhibited “a constant regard to truth and honor, a conduct regulated in all things by the declared will of God, sagacity and penetration, practical wisdom, undaunted courage, a talent for command, a genius for victory, in a degree of perfection scarcely found in any other human being, and a patient endurance of provocations, which is perhaps without a parallel.”

A writer whose judgment is thus subjugated to his imagination, and who paints the character of any historical personage after this fashion, will scarcely be regarded anywhere as a trustworthy guide. Yet it is just to say that the volume before us bears evidence of careful study, that the author's sincerity cannot be questioned, and that a candid perusal of his sketch will scarcely fail to modify the common estimate of Edward's character.

9. — 1. *Autobiography of the REV. DR. ALEXANDER CARLYLE, Minister of Inveresk, containing Memorials of the Men and Events of his Time.* Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 12mo. pp. 471.
2. *Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character.* By E. B. RAMSAY, M. A., LL. D., F. R. S. E., Dean of Edinburgh. From the Seventh Edinburgh Edition. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1861. 12mo. pp. 297.

THESE two volumes have a common object, though composed at very different periods, and they should be read together by every one who would take a comprehensive view of Scotch character and manners as exhibited two or three generations ago. The writers of both are clergymen, and in each of them we have a rich store of personal recollections designed to illustrate a phase of life now become traditional, but with which the writers had large opportunities of being acquainted. Dr. Carlyle was born in 1722, and during the greater part of his life he was minister of a little parish a few miles from Edinburgh. At the age of seventy-eight he conceived the design of writing his personal history, with notices of his contemporaries, in the belief that he should thus rescue from oblivion much that would be of interest to subsequent writers. This design he prosecuted with much zeal until his death in August, 1805, and he was enabled to bring down his narrative to his forty-eighth year. During this period he had been much in the best Scotch society, and had become acquainted with Robertson, Hume, Ferguson, Adam Smith, and indeed with most of the celebrated men of his time in Scotland, beside many of the conspicuous personages in England. He studied at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and afterward at Leyden, where he met the demagogue Wilkes and the brilliant and versatile Charles Townshend, both of whom were then young men; and later in life he often went up to London or wandered off on a "ramble" with a party of clerical friends. He was thus brought in contact with a great variety of characters, and he has recorded his recollections in a style, seldom dignified and elegant, but with few exceptions lively and entertaining. The early chapters, indeed, relate to very insignificant